

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 172112  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

P - MR. HABIB

S/S- MR. WISNER

IO - MR. BAKER (SUBS)

-----043509 222249Z /70

O 222224Z JUL 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 172112

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, LE, UN, PBOR

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: PROPOSED CEASEFIRE AND UN PEACE-  
KEEPING FORCE

REF: BEIRUT 3536

1. BY SEPTTEL YOU WILL SEE INSTRUCTIONS TO DUNNIGAN WITH  
REGARD TO PLO-PROPOSED CEASEFIRE AND PULLBACK IN SOUTH  
LEBANON. CONSISTENT WITH THIS APPROACH, YOU SHOULD GET IN  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 172112

TOUCH WITH SARKIS OR BOUTROS TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--WE ARE CONSULTING WITH THE ISRAELIS WITH REGARD TO THE  
CEASEFIRE AND PULLBACK PROPOSALS EXPLAINED BY THE LEBANESE  
LEADERS.

--BASED ON PAST ISRAELI ASSURANCES, WE CAN CONFIRM THAT

ISRAEL HAS MADE CLEAR IT HAS NO INTENTION TO INVADE OR  
SEIZE PARTS OF SOUTH LEBANON.

--WE SUGGEST THAT THE LEBANESE THEMSELVES SECURE DIRECT  
ASSURANCES FROM THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS THAT THE LATTER WILL  
NOT TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY CEASEFIRE PULLBACK ARRANGE-  
MENT WHICH IS NEGOTIATED. IT MORE THAN LIKELY THAT THE  
ISRAELIS WILL NEED FURTHER DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED ARRANGE-  
MENTS BEFORE THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO ENCOURAGE ACTIVELY  
THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS TO COOPERATE.

--WE, TOO, NEED MAXIMUM DETAILS ON THE PROPOSAL (FYI: DO  
NOT IMPLY IN ANY WAY THAT THE U.S. COULD LEND OPEN SUPPORT  
EVEN TO THE LEBANESE INTERPRETATION OF THE CAIRO ACCORDS,  
SINCE THE ACCORDS SANCTIFY AN ARMED PALESTINIAN PRESENCE  
SOMEWHERE IN LEBANON).

--AS THE LEBANESE MAY HAVE SEEN FROM PRESS REPORTS, DURING  
OUR TALKS IN WASHINGTON, THE ISRAELIS GAVE A GENERALLY  
FAVORABLE INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE CONCEPT OF A UN PEACE-  
KEEPING FORCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, SO LONG AS IT WAS  
COMPOSED OF TROOPS FROM COUNTRIES WITH WHICH ISRAEL HAD  
RELATIONS. WE ARE NOT YET READY TO MAKE A SPECIFIC  
PROPOSAL PUT RECOGNIZE THAT A UN FORCE IN THE SOUTH COULD

CEASEFIRE AND PULLBACK.  
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SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 172112

--THE SECRETARY MAY WANT TO DISCUSS THIS CONCEPT ON HIS  
VISIT TO BEIRUT. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT THE POSITION  
OF THE VARIOUS LEBANESE FACTIONS IS, AS WELL AS THAT OF KEY  
ARAB STATES, TO A UN FORCE AT THIS TIME.

--FYI: SHOULD THE DETAILS OF SUCH A FORCE BE RAISED YOU  
SHOULD COMMENT THAT ARAB AGREEMENT ALONE ON THE DESIRABILITY  
OF THE FORCE WOULD STILL LEAVE UNRESOLVED SUCH POTENTIALLY  
DIFFICULT QUESTIONS AS THE COMPOSITION OF SUCH A FORCE AND  
THE NATURE OF ITS SECURITY COUNCIL MANDATE. VANCE

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APPROVED BY: THE SECRETARY

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S/S:MR WISNER

S

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S E C R E T STATE 172112

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 6 LINE 7 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: PROPOSED CEASEFIRE AND UN PEACE-  
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1. BY SEPTTEL YOU WILL SEE INSTRUCTIONS TO DUNNIGAN WITH  
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TOUCH WITH SARKIS OR BOUTROS TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--WE ARE CONSULTING WITH THE ISRAELIS WITH REGARD TO THE  
CEASEFIRE AND PULLBACK PROPOSALS EXPLAINED BY THE LEBANESE  
LEADERS.

--BASED ON PAST ISRAELI ASSURANCES, WE CAN CONFIRM THAT ISRAEL HAS MADE CLEAR IT HAS NO INTENTION TO INVADE OR SEIZE PARTS OF SOUTH LEBANON.

--WE SUGGEST THAT THE LEBANESE THEMSELVES SECURE DIRECT ASSURANCES FROM THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS THAT THE LATTER WILL NOT TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY CEASEFIRE PULLBACK ARRANGEMENT WHICH IS NEGOTIATED. IT MORE THAN LIKELY THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL NEED FURTHER DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO ENCOURAGE ACTIVELY THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS TO COOPERATE.

--WE, TOO, NEED MAXIMUM DETAILS ON THE PROPOSAL (FYI: DO NOT IMPLY IN ANY WAY THAT THE U.S. COULD LEND OPEN SUPPORT EVEN TO THE LEBANESE INTERPRETATION OF THE CAIRO ACCORDS, SINCE THE ACCORDS SANCTIFY AN ARMED PALESTINIAN PRESENCE SOMEWHERE IN LEBANON).

--AS THE LEBANESE MAY HAVE SEEN FROM PRESS REPORTS, DURING OUR TALKS IN WASHINGTON, THE ISRAELIS GAVE A GENERALLY FAVORABLE INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE CONCEPT OF A UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, SO LONG AS IT WAS COMPOSED OF TROOPS FROM COUNTRIES WITH WHICH ISRAEL HAD  
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PAGE 03 STATE 172112

RELATIONS. WE ARE NOT YET READY TO MAKE A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL PUT RECOGNIZE THAT A UN FORCE IN THE SOUTH COULD REALISTICALLY BE USEFUL IN THE CONTEXT OF A PALESTINIAN CEASEFIRE AND PULLBACK.

--THE SECRETARY MAY WANT TO DISCUSS THIS CONCEPT ON HIS VISIT TO BEIRUT. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT THE POSITION OF THE VARIOUS LEBANESE FACTIONS IS, AS WELL AS THAT OF KEY ARAB STATES, TO A UN FORCE AT THIS TIME.

--FYI: SHOULD THE DETAILS OF SUCH A FORCE BE RAISED YOU SHOULD COMMENT THAT ARAB AGREEMENT ALONE ON THE DESIRABILITY OF THE FORCE WOULD STILL LEAVE UNRESOLVED SUCH POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT QUESTIONS AS THE COMPOSITION OF SUCH A FORCE AND THE NATURE OF ITS SECURITY COUNCIL MANDATE. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PORG, PBOR, MARR, LE, XF, UN  
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**Type:** TE  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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